

City Council Meeting Minutes

**August 27, 2019
City Hall, Council Chambers
749 Main Street
6:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Muckle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present:

City Council: ***Mayor Robert Muckle
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lipton
Councilmember Jay Keany
Councilmember Susan Loo
Councilmember Dennis Maloney
Councilmember Ashley Stolzmann***

Absent: ***Councilmember Chris Leh***

Staff Present: ***Heather Balser, City Manager
Megan Davis, Deputy City Manager
Kevin Watson, Finance Director
Nathan Mosely, Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Director
Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director
Rob Zuccaro, Planning & Building Safety Director
Sharon Nemechek, Library Director
Dave Hayes, Police Chief
Chris Neves, Information Technology Director
Meredyth Muth, City Clerk***

Others Present: ***Kathleen Kelly, City Attorney***

UPDATE – MEDIAN LANDSCAPE RENOVATION PROJECT

Director Mosley stated this is an update prior to finalizing costs and designs for the project to improve the overall functioning of the medians. He reviewed the project goals: improve irrigation, replace and reduce maintenance where we can, and have more of a corridor identity. Each corridor has its own theme.

Director Mosley stated tree replacement will be a priority particularly the ash trees and the impact of the emerald ash borer infestation. The Parks and Public Landscaping Board

has recommended tree replacement be done in a way to retain the canopy while at the same time planting new trees to take over rather than a wholesale removal of ash trees.

Councilmember Maloney wanted to make sure the site lines are kept safe for drivers to be able to see pedestrians. Mayor Muckle added that the plantings near the pedestrian crossings need to be low enough to allow drivers to see pedestrians.

Members discussed some pros and cons related to the planting choices.

Councilmember Stolzmann stated she prefers keeping some of the ash trees while allowing new ones to grow rather than an immediate removal. Mayor Muckle agreed we shouldn't remove ash trees until they are diseased and must be removed. Members agreed with that process.

Councilmember Loo asked for more bee friendly plants and flowering or colorful trees. Councilmember Stolzmann stated she gets requests for fruit trees as well.

Director Mosley reviewed next steps to finalize design and pricing. Work will begin next month for about eight weeks and continue again in 2020.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Director Kowar gave an update on the BNSF Steel Ranch underpass. He stated BNSF is now requiring the track be kept open during construction which requires a bypass of the construction area. This bypass is estimated to be a \$2.8M additional cost to the project. The new cost is almost \$6M with all of BNSF's requirements.

Director Kowar reviewed some alternative trail connections that could be considered.

City Manager Balser added that some of these connections will be addressed in the TMP. She added that the \$6M price tag is not settled and it could increase based on BNSF and their unwillingness to work with the City.

Director Kowar stated they did inquire about an at-grade crossing and BNSF stated they will not consider one.

Councilmember Keany stated he has spoken with the Takoda Metro District about their previous \$250K donation to this project. He stated Takoda residents are looking for alternative uses for their funding. They are wondering about using it to improve pedestrian connections at South Boulder Road and Main Street or improvements to Cowboy Park. They want to make sure that money benefits Steel Ranch.

Councilmember Loo asked what drainage improvements are needed in the area that Urban Drainage is contributing for. Director Kowar stated drainage improvements are still needed and we can still use their funding to make improvements without the underpass.

City Manager Balser stated staff needs direction if we are keeping the underpass in the budget or not. Councilmember Loo and Councilmember Keany are supportive of not doing the underpass.

Mayor Muckle supported shelving the project until a later date when we might get better news from BNSF. He is reluctant to build other improvements in the area that will make us not want to build the underpass later.

City Manager Balser stated we now have some funding in the 2020 budget dedicated to the underpass. Staff can remove that and look at alternatives.

Councilmember Stolzmann agreed the underpass is cost prohibitive at this time and there might be better locations for this crossing. She stated she would like to see more pedestrian improvements at Main Street and South Boulder Road and at the Eisenhower and South Boulder Road crossing.

Deputy City Manager Davis stated staff is working on the Eisenhower crossing but with all of the design and approval processes it is unlikely we can start construction on it prior to end the 2020.

Councilmember Stolzmann noted residents really want underpasses not at grade crossings on South Boulder Road. City Manager Balser stated funding and priorities for all of these projects will be discussed with the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) in October.

Councilmember Loo stated the underpasses are so expensive particularly at South Boulder Road and Main Street; it is unrealistic to think we can pay for that.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton stated residents want some things done sooner than later. We can start with good at-grade improvements and that doesn't preclude us from doing greater things later. We should do some things quickly to make an impact on the community now.

Members agreed to remove that underpass from the current budget and look at alternatives. City Manager Balser stated the TMP prioritization discussion will impact the choice for projects. Staff will also continue to look at expediting projects.

Members briefly discussed the proposed Pine Street bikeway proposal in the TMP. In general Council was not supportive of this. Staff will remove the concept from the TMP when presented to City Council for action.

Members reviewed the projects proposed for removal from the 2020 CIP. They had no changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS

(Louisville Charter, Section 5-2(c) – Authorized Topics – Consideration of real property acquisitions and dispositions, only as to appraisals and other value estimates and strategy, and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a)).

City Attorney Kelly introduced the request for executive session stating the City Manager is requesting an Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of potential property acquisition and disposition in Louisville.

The City Clerk read Section 2.180.130 of the Louisville Municipal Code which outlines the topics permitted for discussion in an executive session.

City Attorney Kelly stated the authority to conduct this executive session is in the Home Rule Charter Section 5-2(c) for Council to discuss potential real property acquisitions and dispositions, with regard to properties in Louisville, but only as to appraisals and other value estimates and strategy, and in C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a). The request involves potential acquisition of real property.

MOTION: Mayor Muckle moved the City Council adjourn to executive session for the purpose of consideration of potential real property acquisitions and dispositions, with regard to properties in Louisville, but only as to appraisals and other value estimates and strategy; and the executive session include the City Council, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, Planning Director, and Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director. Seconded by Councilmember Stolzmann.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The City Council adjourned to executive session at 7:18 pm.

The City Council meeting reconvened at 7:43 pm.

**REPORT – DISCUSSION/DIRECTION/ACTION – REAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION
AND ACQUISITIONS**

City Attorney Kelly reported that while in the executive session City Council discussed a matter concerning real property acquisitions. No specific action is requested for follow up at this time.

ADVANCED AGENDA & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members reviewed the advanced agenda.

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Robert P. Muckle, Mayor

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk